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October 4, 2005

PHD # 5062

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 6th – 12th 2005
"National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week"**

In recognition of National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week, November 6th – 12th, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is asking the citizens of San Bernardino County to take a closer look at the valuable role their animal shelter plays in enhancing the quality of life in their community.

Animal shelters offer many services to assist animals and people alike: rescuing and caring for stray/injured animals, returning lost pets to their owners, educating residents about shelter operations and the importance of responsible pet ownership, and adopting animals into new, loving homes. Shelters also offer the personal guidance of their staffs to assist the public with animal-related issues and concerns, from dealing with wildlife to helping with pet-behavior questions.

There are many ways that residents can help the San Bernardino County Shelters, which include the Big Bear, Devore, and Rancho Cucamonga Animal Shelters. For instance:

- Offer a donation to the shelter of needed supplies.
- Spread the word about the importance of responsible pet ownership, including spaying/neutering.
- Volunteer your time at the shelter.
- Report animal cruelty and neglect.
- Choose your next pet from among the many animals being cared for at your local animal shelter.

The San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program would like to encourage residents to get involved in helping the homeless animals by participating in these activities. In addition, if you are looking to adopt a new four-legged friend into your home please stop by and visit one of your local animal shelters. There are always lots of wonderful animals that are just waiting to find a home just like yours. For more information, please call the San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program toll free at 1-800-472-5609 or visit their website at www.sbcounty.gov/acc. Thank you!

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